



Do you have news to share or an event you'd like publicized to the Greenwood community? We're always looking for ideas for the eNewsletter, so let us know about anything you'd like to see included in an upcoming edition. Just e-mail your editor at [sbergman@mnorch.org](mailto:sbergman@mnorch.org)

## Viola Power! (Sirota Edition)

The name Sirota is a familiar one to anyone who's spent any time around Senior Greenwood over the last few years: violist Jonah Sirota and the rest of his compatriots in the [Chiara Quartet](#) have become a much-loved part of the camp's regular faculty, and the Chiaras have achieved something approaching rock star status (by classical standards, anyway) in the wider world of Western Massachusetts.



But Jonah's not the only Sirota making waves in the viola world these days - his younger sister Nadia (*pictured at left*), herself a fixture at both junior and senior Greenwood in the 1990s, has [established an impressive solo and chamber music career](#) for herself within New York City's thriving new music scene. Through innovative collaborations with composers like Nico Muhly and Marcos Balter, her studio work with ultra-hip bands like Grizzly Bear and songwriter Sam Amidon, as well as her work as an overnight DJ on New York's WNYC-FM, she seems to have become that rarest of musical beasts: a seriously cool violist.

This past spring, Nadia released her debut solo CD on New Amsterdam Records. [First Things First](#) is a gripping (has such a word ever been used to describe solo viola music?) tour through Nadia's sonic world, featuring tracks by Muhly, Balter, and Judd Greenstein. One of the tracks features the Chiara Quartet, and several others make use of the digital effects and looping technology that are a hallmark of Muhly's music. Writing on her website about the process of creating the CD, Nadia said, "All of these personal connections make this record really special for me, but more importantly, the music on this record is really good; all three of these guys have really strong, individual voices, but I think their music speaks well together. Their music is innovative, and yet feels timely and inevitable."

Nadia will be performing with the Meredith Monk Ensemble in late October as part of the

Brooklyn Academy of Music's [Next Wave Festival](#), and in November, she'll be touring Europe as part of the [Whale Watching Tour](#), which features the music of Sam Amidon, Ben Frost, Nico Muhly & Valgeir Sigurðsson. And for those Greenwooders in the New Jersey/Pennsylvania area, she'll be premiering a new solo work by composer [Andrew McPherson](#) at Princeton on November 22.

(Oh, and just so as not to spark any sibling rivalry: Jonah and the Chiaras are having quite a year as well! Lately, the group has been performing a series of concerts under the heading "Chamber Music in Any Chamber," which this month will see them playing Beethoven in a Kansas bar, Webern and Debussy at the National Gallery in Washington, Brahms at Harvard, and a new music concert at the Avant Garden in Houston. Check out the Chiara's tour schedule [here](#)..)

## Meet Greenwood's Next Board Chair

This summer, Greenwood's board of directors elected Andy Langowitz as its chair-elect. Andy will take over the leadership of the board from Hal Churchill beginning with the June 2011 board meeting. We asked Andy to introduce himself to those of us who might not have crossed his path before...

*"I was born, raised, and still live in the Boston area, where I work as an independent software developer. I am married with three children, ages 16 through 21. I played flute at Senior Camp for four summers, from 1970 to 1973, and began attending reunions almost every year after they started in the late 1980's. I served a previous stint on the Greenwood Board for about 10 years starting in the mid 1990's. I still play regularly, in chamber groups whenever I have a chance, and as a member of the New Philharmonia Orchestra, a community orchestra based in the Western Boston suburbs.*

*Greenwood played a very important role in my early life, and was and still is an incredibly special place. I am honored to be part of the group that is helping to preserve and nurture it."*

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